35.

VOX JUVENILIS:

OR, THE

Loyal Apprentices

VINDICATION

OF THE

Deſign and Promoters of their late Humble Addreſs to His Majeſty.

IT has always been the Policy of our *Phanatick Machivilians* to obtrude the Execution of their Rebellious Deſigns upon the moſt Raſh and unthinking ſort of men: And upon this Account we find in the Story of the late Times, That the giddy Multitude being betray'd into Inſurrections by the ſpecious Pretences of Contending for their own Liberties and Rights, was thought the moſt likely Way to work the Subverſion of the Government, as well Civil as Eccleſiaſtical.

And for the ſame Reaſon were ſeveral Apprentices of the City of *London* impoſed upon, and made uſe of by the Broachers of that horrid Rebellion: for that ſome of them wanting the benefit of Education, and all, of Experience, they might be the more eaſily inſtigated to give the firſt Onſet upon Magiſtracy. Accordingly in the Year 1640. *May*, 9. We find a Paper fixed at the *Exchange*, to Exhort the Apprentices to Sack the Houſe of the Lord Arch-Biſhop of *Canterbury* at *Lambeth*; which about 500 of them were drawn in to Attempt accordingly, though they were there repulſed, and ſome of them afterwards made an Example for their Inſolence: And this we may conclude was a Project not Originally their own, but of ſome Factious Engineers, who thought it their Intereſt to ſet them on work.

The next Account we have of them in the Hiſtory of thoſe Times, is when no leſs than 600 were diſpoſed to March to *White-Hall* to demand Juſtice againſt the Earl of *Strafford*, whereof the greater number were Apprentices.

And again to draw nearer in their Affronts to Majeſty, we after hear of ſeveral Mutinous Apprentices, who in a Tumultuous manner reſorted to *White-Hall* and *Weſtminſter*, to the Affrightment of the King himſelf.

And to fill up the meaſure of their Wickedneſs, In the next place we find many of them in the Year 1648. Liſting themſelves into *Eſſex*'s Army, by the invitation of the Rebells, who had taken care to free them from their Servitude upon that Condition.

But the Ingenuous Lads could not always be ſo abuſed, For when his Late Majeſty was a Priſoner, in deteſtation of ſo vile an Act, we find the Apprentices take Courage enough to ſet upon a part of the Trained Bands, and very fairly rout them; divide themſelves into Parties, whereof one goes towards *White-Hall*, and was there ſuppreſſed, But at Night they rally again, Surpriſe the two Priſons of *Newgate* and *Ludgate*, ſeize a Drake-Piece from the Lord Mayor, and in the Morning labour to get Arms

Arms, and break open ſome Saleſmens Shops of Ammunition, and muſter the Magazine at *Leaden-Hall*, Crying out FOR GOD AND KING CHARLES: and though by this buſtle they could do the King no Service, yet we find that Loyalty ſtill ſprung in their Hearts; for when General *Monk* was on his Journey to *London*, he receives Advice from Commiſſary *Clarges*, that ſeveral Apprentices had made Inſurrection in Favour of him againſt *Fleetwood*'s Party, and had declar'd for the reſtoring A Parliament and Magiſtracy, which they ſaid was ſuppreſſed by the Committee of Safety (who (by the way) had Emitted a Proclamation to prevent getting hands to Petitions:) In this Affair were Twenty wounded, and Two killed, and at laſt they were all Defeated by Coll. *Hewſon*.

In ſhort, we find our *London* Youngſters bravely veering about, and demonſtrating their earneſt deſire to reeſtabliſh King CHARLES the Second, in His Rightful Throne.

And there he is, and that he may there ſit undiſturb'd and ſafe from the Treaſonable Deſigns of any kind of Rebel either Papiſt or Phanatick, 'tis the firm Reſolution of the Loyal Apprentices of the City of *London* never to be wanting to demonſtrate their Loyalty and Readineſs to aſſiſt the King with their Lives and Fortunes too when they come to enjoy them; And that no Villain ſhould dare to affront their good Prince, nor any ſly inſinuating Rebel have any Hopes to corrupt their Allegiance as they did heretofore, they have declar'd to the World their ſteady Loyalty, by their late Addreſs which was preſented to his Majeſty, and received a favourable Acceptance.

The Subſcription of which by many Thouſand Hands, is not all neither, For we make no doubt but that there are Twenty Thouſand more, as Brisk and Valiant Young Men that have not had the opportunity to give this Teſtimony of their Loyalty, or elſe have been forbid to do it by their Ill-Principl'd Maſters, or elſe whoſe Names are Loſt in Gathering by the Malicious Contrivance of no Good Subjects to his Majeſty, whoſe wills are as ready, and their Reſolutions as ſtrong to ſtand by his Majeſty, and to Guard his Perſon from his Enemies under what names ſo ever diſtinguiſhed, and that think their Lives too little to ſpend in his Service: *And let all the Enemies of King* CHARLES II. *take this for granted and Beware.*

But ſince a ſort of unmannerly Backbiters have endeavoured to repreſent the Deſign and Promoters of our Addreſs in as ugly a Shape as they could; We are reſolved to ſpeak a word in our own Vindication, where by the way we ſhall not do Mr. *Janeway* the honour to take any further Notice of his ſcandalous reflections than as they are common to others of his Church. But we will ſuppoſe whatſoever Objections Malice it ſelf can raiſe againſt a thing of this nature.

'*Firſt*, Some ſuggeſt that we are ſet on work by Papiſts, Jeſuits, and the Lord 'knows who.

'*Secondly*, Others, That the Authors and Deſigners of the Addreſs are ſcandalous 'Ruffians, as Mr. *Janeway* is pleaſed to call us.

'*Thirdly*, That we procured Subſcriptions by indirect Means, drawing in idle Fellows 'by Pots of Ale: And that the Subſcribers are all Perſons of no Reputation.

'*Fourthly*, Suppoſe we were never ſo good Boys, and did it for never ſo good Ends; 'yet, forſooth, it doth not belong to us, and that Apprentices ought not to meddle 'with State-Matters.

'And *Laſtly*, That it is a ready way to create a miſunderſtanding amongſt the People, 'And that it being a kind of Combination, may cauſe a Diſturbance amongſt the Youth 'of the City.

For the firſt, *That we were influenced by Papiſts*, 'Tis falſe; for the Contrivers were all of the Proteſtant Religion, as it is now Eſtabliſhed by Law: And we are certain there was never a Jeſuit in any Corner of the Room where it was firſt Debated. And beſides, our very Addreſs declares the contrary; for Papiſts, as well as others, are the Party we aim at.

To the Second, *That the Projectors of this Deſign are Scandalous Perſons and Ruffians.* To the Suggeſters of this, the *Scotch*-man's Anſwer to *Bellarmine* is ſufficient; 'Tis a loud Lye: for we are all Honeſt, Sober Fellows, and born of honeſt Parents.

To the Third, *That by indirect ways we procured Hands.* We anſwer, that we never croſs'd the Water to the *Hope* on *Bear-Garden* days, to offer to get Hands there; nor were ever concerned to create a Bull-baiting, on purpoſe to draw the Rabble in, to fill up our Number, as ſome of the famous *Eſſex*-Patriots did to fill up their Petition for a

Parliament.

Parliament. We never went to any Country-Fairs, amongst the Ballad-singers; nor in all Humility addressed our selves to the little Boys of a Free-School to please us with two or three hundred Hands. We never hired any one to subscribe, nor ever told a Refuser that we would put him in our black Book, as Mr. *S. H.* did those that would not sign his *Good old Cause-Petition.* We never called a Conventicle, to get the Well-Wishers together: but honestly left our Papers where we thought fit, though the Republican Rats had so little Manners to gnaw them in peices when they were full of Hands.

As to the Persons that subscribed, let those have a care that scandalize any one Man of them.

And as to the next Objection, and that which has done Us much prejudice in our Proceedings, *That we meddle with State-Matters that don't concern Us.*

We Answer, That truly we think it belongs as much to Us to Thank the *KING* for His Good Government, and to Testifie our Resolutions to Serve and Defend Him, as it did the Porters and Broom-men that Subscrib'd Sir *G*'s. Perition, to tell His Majesty when 'twas Good for Him *to call a Parliament.*

But as for State Affairs, we find none in the Address, we purposely did avoid it; and upon that account, though we love to hear talk of the Succession going in the right Line, yet we said never a word about it.

But if our Thanking His Majesty for His Gratious DECLARATION be a matter of State; we Declare, we thought it had been for the satisfaction of Us as well as Our Masters, or any body else; for when the World made such a Noise about the Dissolution of the two last Parliaments, and some were so Impudent to speak hard words of our *KING* about it; we were very glad at such a time to see His Majesty Condescend to tell the World, and Us amongst the rest, that He had very good Reason to do what he did, whereby He removed all cause of Complaints or Jealousie.

Now as we are infinitely sensible of the Great Benefits and Advantages, which his Majesty hath been pleased to hold forth unto us in This his most Gracious *Declaration*; so we likewise Account our selves bound, by All the Tyes of Loyalty and Gratitude, humbly to present our Dutiful Acknowledgements to the BEST OF SOVEREIGNS, and to declare unto the World our Firm and Unalterable Resolutions to Expose our Lives and Fortunes in the Support, Maintenance and Defence of our King and his Government. And though the sense of Honesty, Justice and Allegiance was the Principal Motive that led us to This Address, we had likewise some regard in it to the Vindication of our Credits, from the Infamy that was cast upon us by a Pack of Common Scribliing Rascals, that made the whole Nation ring with the Story of a Conspiracy among the Apprentices to Engage the Nation in new Troubles; and the City in a Desperate and Bloody Tumult, Insomuch that we could not do our selves Right, but by some Publick Manifestation of our Innocence.

Lastly, As to the Pretence of Those that Enviously Reflect upon this our Proceeding, as a Design to Create Divisions and Misunderstandings among his Majesties Subjects, we have Diligently Enformed our selves concerning the Opinions and Practices of those People: and we find them to be, for the most part Men of Dangerous Principles, as *Anabaptists*, *Separatists*, and other sorts of *Dissenters* from the *Church*, and no less *Enemies* to the *Civil Government.* So that their Quarrels to us is not for any fear they have of our Disturbing the Publick Peace; but for the Disappointment which our Conjunction hath given to their Designs; which they can never be able to put in Execution against so powerful an Opposition.

So that if they call it a *Combination* we must needs maintain that it is both an Honest and a Good One, and that it is so far from tending to make a Mutiny and Disturbance, That it has given the City sufficient security against both; For certainly our very Address it self is sufficient to convince the World that we are sensible of our Duty to our Sovereign; and supposing that, The same Good Principle must necessarily influence us to pay that Obedience and Respect which is due to all those that are in Authority under him: And seeing all the Subscribers have therein really devoted themselves to his Majesties Interest, 'tis very improbable that they would make themselves guilty of any thing so contrary and prejudicial thereunto, as are Mutinous and Disorderly Insurrections.

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And as the Intentions of our Hearts are Fair and Peaceable (for we will rather dye than entertain so much as the least thought of any unlawful Enterprize) So was the *Time* that we Pitch'd upon for our Address as Seasonable too, and much more proper, than for the importunity of Peremptory and Factious Petitions. For when the *Phanaticks* daily made their Boasts concerning the Number of their Party; which Confidence made them so bold as to extend their Affronts even to his Sacred Majesty, and which (for ought we knew) might give them hopes to attempt the Subversion of the Establish'd Government, which (the better to Accomplish their Design) they had been so Industrious by Libelling and other base Methods to defame: And seeing that several Essays were daily made to make his Majesties Subjects forfeit their Allegiance; and particularly upon our selves by some that endeavoured to amuse us with unnecessary Fears of the loss of Religion and Trade, and such like specious pretences: We thought it not amiss (at such a time) according to the Example of our Superiors, humbly to Address our selves to his Majesty, To Acquaint him what a Multitude of Brave Loyal and True-hearted Lads he has near him, whose Hearty Affections to his Person and Government, and their Loyal Union among themselves, would make them not afraid when by him Commanded, To Confront the most Resolute and Formidable Rebel: and whose Number would render them (if Occasion should be) no inconsiderable Guard to his Royal Person.

And therein to convince all the Insinuating Factious Crue who endeavour to seduce us, That we will never again be decoy'd out of our Duty to our Sovereign, and that though the *Papists* make the *Phanaticks* their Tools, yet we will never become the *Phanaticks*.

To conclude, our Address having been honoured with his Majesties Princely Approbation; and seeing the Design of it was Peaceable and Seasonable, as well as Loyal and Dutiful, the World has no Reason to blame it, nor we to be asham'd to own it.

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